
DISTRICT 1 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ADVISORY LETTER

June 2006

This letter has been designed to enhance the District's Division of Transportation Planning and Local Assistance relationship with Local Agencies and Tribal Governments. We are aiming to provide local agencies and tribal governments with a basic reference for pertinent information and reminders. Below you will find deadlines for grant applications, training and development opportunities, and a tip of the month. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how this letter could better serve you, please feel free to contact jan_bulinski@dot.ca.gov.

New Developments

Transportation Planning has completed the process of reorganizing! Local Assistance is teamed up with Regional Planning under Jan Bulinski, Chief of Local Assistance and Regional Planning. Rex Jackman is the Chief for the Offices of System and Community Planning. Jerome Washington is now the Associate Environmental Planner for Local Assistance. Please give Jerome a call regarding the environmental process.

Along with the reorganizing of our Department, we have hired the following new employees: In System & Community Planning: Brandon Larsen, Transportation Planner; Lindsay Walker, Transportation Planner; Lezlie Kimura, Transportation Planner; and, Sharon McGouran, T&D. In Local Assistance & Regional Planning: Leishara Ward, Transportation Planner; Mark E. Mueller, Transportation Engineer (Civil); and, Tatiana Ahlstrand, Transportation Planner. Welcome to you all!

Upcoming Training

New DBE Program (July '06)

Native American Consultation (tba)

Transportation Planning Program Update

Local Assistance Programs

Exchange Match:

Send invoices to HQ now for reimbursement.

Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (HBRR):

Check in to make sure your are on schedule and your bridge is included in the FSTIP.

Preventative Bridge Maintenance

This optional program, funded by SAFETEA-LU, is intended to extend the useful life of local agency bridges. For a limited time funds are available to agencies to research and develop their bridge maintenance program. To take advantage of this funding opportunity, please submit your plan of action and Authorization Requests to your District Local Assistance no later than August 1, 2006. The list of bridges you'd like to include in the program must be in the FSTIP and thus is due by September 30, 2006 for this coming year. If you miss the deadline for this funding opportunity you will have to wait till funds for the program again become available, which will likely occur towards the end of 2008. For further details about this exciting program please contact your Local Assistance Engineer.

Safe Routes to School (SR2S)

Congratulations to Mendocino County and the City of Fort Bragg for award of their Cycle 6 SR2S projects. Similar to previous program cycles, competition was tough with over 370 applications received and only 115 projects receiving funding.

Currently the Caltrans Office of Program Management is hard at work updating the SR2S Program Guidelines to incorporate the new federal requirements mandated by SAFETEA-LU. Also, watch for solicitation of applications for the next cycle. Both release of the new guidelines and solicitation of new projects are expected to occur sometime around September or October.

Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) and HSIP

The HES program will be changed to HSIP per the new transportation act, SAFETEA-LU. HSIP stands for Highway Safety Improvement Program. To implement the HSIP, changes will need to be made in State law; therefore, it is likely the current HES program will be carried over for another year until HSIP can be implemented and guidelines for the new program can be released. Solicitations for the HES program will likely go out towards the end of the year, after approval is obtained to extend the current program another year.

Emergency Relief (ER)

On February 2, 2006 the President granted a Major Disaster Declaration for the late December-early January California storms. The initial incident period defined as December 17, 2005 to January 3, 2006 was recently extended to April 16, 2006. All agencies with ER projects should keep in mind that an after the fact Authorization and after the fact R/W Certification will be required for all Emergency Opening Work performed. A completed 2006/2007 DBE plan is required for any authorizations occurring after June 15, 2006.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The new STIP cycle has been approved by the CTC will begin on July 1, 2006. The CTC just voted in June all the projects on the pending list. Those of you with votes on extensions, please be aware of the associated timelines.

Transit & Community Planning Grants

Community Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) and Environmental Justice (EJ) Grants

Grant applications for the FY 2006/07 EJ and CBTP grant programs are due to the district by October 13, 2006 and can be downloaded at the following site:

<<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.htm>>.

Successful applicants for the 06/07 grant cycle were announced in May 2006. This year two grants were awarded to District 1 applicants: Mendocino Council of Governments was awarded a CBTP Grant on behalf of the community of Laytonville and Smith River Rancheria was awarded an EJ grant. Congratulations!

Mass Transit and Planning Transit Grants

FTA Section 5310 Special Transit Needs of Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Grant Program

The Fiscal Year 2006/07 Cycle announcement was made October 2005 and applications were due to Sacramento March 31, 2006. It is anticipated that the proposed projects will be awarded and a new cycle announced October or November 2006.

FTA Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula (Regional Apportionment) Program

Grant 24 preliminary funding available to counties was released September 2005, for 2005/06 capital or operating assistance. The RTPA submits a Program of Projects by December 31st of each year. To be included in Grant 24, applications must be complete and in HQ by June 30, 2007.

FTA Section 5311 State Discretionary Reserve Program

State Discretionary funds (FY 2006) were distributed to 5311 recipients on a proportional basis in September 2005 along with the standard FTA Section 5311 Regional Apportionment (FY 2006). The next anticipated distribution of Discretionary funds will be in Grant 24, Federal FY 2009 funding; every three years.

FTA Section 5311(f) Inter-City Bus Program

Cycle 14 funding announcement occurred April 2006, with applications due to Sacramento on June 23, 2006.

FTA Section 5305 Transit Technical Assistance; Statewide Planning Studies; and Transit Professional Development Programs; and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Partnership Planning Program

In August 2005 at the CPG Training, it was announced that FY 2006/07 applications were due October 14, 2005 to the Districts and to Sacramento in November 2005 for review. Awards were announced in May 2006. In District 1, the only awarded project for FY 2006/07 was MCOG's 5305 funded "Willits Area Transit Service Implementation Plan."

**Disclaimer. Not all agencies are eligible for all funding programs. Please contact your program coordinator at Caltrans for further information.
